

In the Claims

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

20. (New) A respirator face mask providing physiological protection, comprising:

- an oronasal face piece which is connectable to a respiratory gas source,
- a semi-flexible lip element with an edge designed to position said oronasal face piece on a user's face and,
- hygienic protection means which are removably positioned at least partly inside said mask and including a first part which provides hygienic protection and a second part which maintains said hygienic protection means inside said mask, said second part co-operating elastically with one of said semi-flexible lip element and the face piece.

21. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20, wherein said first and second parts of said hygienic protection means include different materials.

22. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20, wherein said second part of said hygienic protection means is in contact with at least an internal part of said semi-flexible lip element.

23. (New) The mask as claimed in one claim 20, wherein a thin lip element of said hygienic protection means prolongs, in at least one area, said second part, of said hygienic protection means, so as to extend a few millimeters beyond said edge of said semi-flexible lip element.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/555,816
Filed: 07 November 2005
SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

24. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 23, wherein said thin lip element is prolonged over at least an external part of said semi-flexible lip element.

25. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20, wherein said first part of said hygienic protection means includes a filter which is permeable to respiratory gases.

26. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 25, wherein said first part at least partly filters any infection from a user.

27. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20, wherein said first part of said hygienic protection means has a corrugated shape, for reducing the pressure drop of said hygienic protection means.

28. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 27, wherein said corrugated shape corresponds to waves substantially centered about a central area of said hygienic protection means, so as to facilitate extraction of said hygienic protection means from said mask.

29. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20 including a cord, attached to said hygienic protection means, for facilitating extraction of said hygienic protection means from said mask.

30. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20 wherein said second part of said hygienic protection means is made of silicone.

31. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20, wherein said first part of said hygienic protection means covers an area of said semi-flexible lip element which, in the absence of said hygienic protection means, would have been in contact with said user's face once said mask was in place on said user's face.

32. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20, wherein said second part of said hygienic protection means includes an elastic thread gripping said semi-flexible lip element.

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33. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20 wherein a flexible structure is placed between said hygienic protection means and an internal part of said semi-flexible lip element, said flexible structure extending beyond said semi-flexible lip element.

34. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20, wherein a flexible structure is placed outside said hygienic protection means, and inside said semi-flexible lip element said extendible structure extending beyond said semi-flexible lip element.

35 (New) The mask as claimed in claim 20 including:

- a part of said hygienic protection means which is located outside said semi-flexible lip element and including a structural part providing a seal between a semi-flexible lip element and said hygienic protection means,
- another part of said hygienic protection means which is located over an external area of said semi-flexible lip element which, in the absence of said hygienic protection means (4), would have been in contact with said user's face once said mask was in place on said user's face, and
- yet another part of said hygienic protection means which is designed to be pressed onto said user's face, by the effect of a pressure of respiratory gas inside said mask, when said mask is worn, to provide a seal between said hygienic protection means and said user's face.

36. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 35, wherein said structural part exerts a mechanical pressure on said semi-flexible lip element, which is greater than a maximum pressure of respiratory gas, which can prevail inside said mask.

37. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 35, wherein said three parts are formed by a single elastic film.

38. (New) The mask as claimed in claim 35, wherein said structural part includes an elastic thread.